3. (Amended) A DNA molecule encoding a protein exhibiting alkaline liquefying α-amylase <u>activity at a pH optimum of 8-9</u> and possessing an amino acid sequence described in Sequence No. 2 in which one more amino acids are substituted, [added,] deleted, or inserted, such that the sequence of the substituted, added, deleted, or inserted amino acid is equivalent in activity to the amino acid sequence of Sequence No. 2 and hydrolyzes 1,4-α-glucosidic linkages in starches, amylose, amylopectin, and degradation products thereof and in amylose forms: glucose (G1), maltose (G2), maltotriose (G3), maltotetraose (G4), maltopentaose (G5) and [meltohexaose] <u>maltohexaose</u> (G6) and does not hydrolyze pullulan.

Please add the following new claims:

--22. A DNA molecule encoding a protein exhibiting alkaline liquefying α-amylase activity at a pH optimum of 8-9, comprising at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 9.

23. A DNA molecule encoding a protein exhibiting alkaline liquefying α-amylase activity at a pH optimum of

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8-9 comprising at least one nucleotide sequence that is the reverse complement of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 11.

24. A DNA molecule encoding a protein exhibiting alkaline liquefying α-amylase activity at a pH optimum of 8-9 comprising at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 9, and also comprising at least one nucleotide sequence that is the reverse complement of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 11.--

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

By this amendment, claims 2 and 3 are amended and claims 22-24 are added. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-7, 9 and 11-24 will be pending in the application.

Support for claims 22-24 is found in the Examples of the instant Specification.